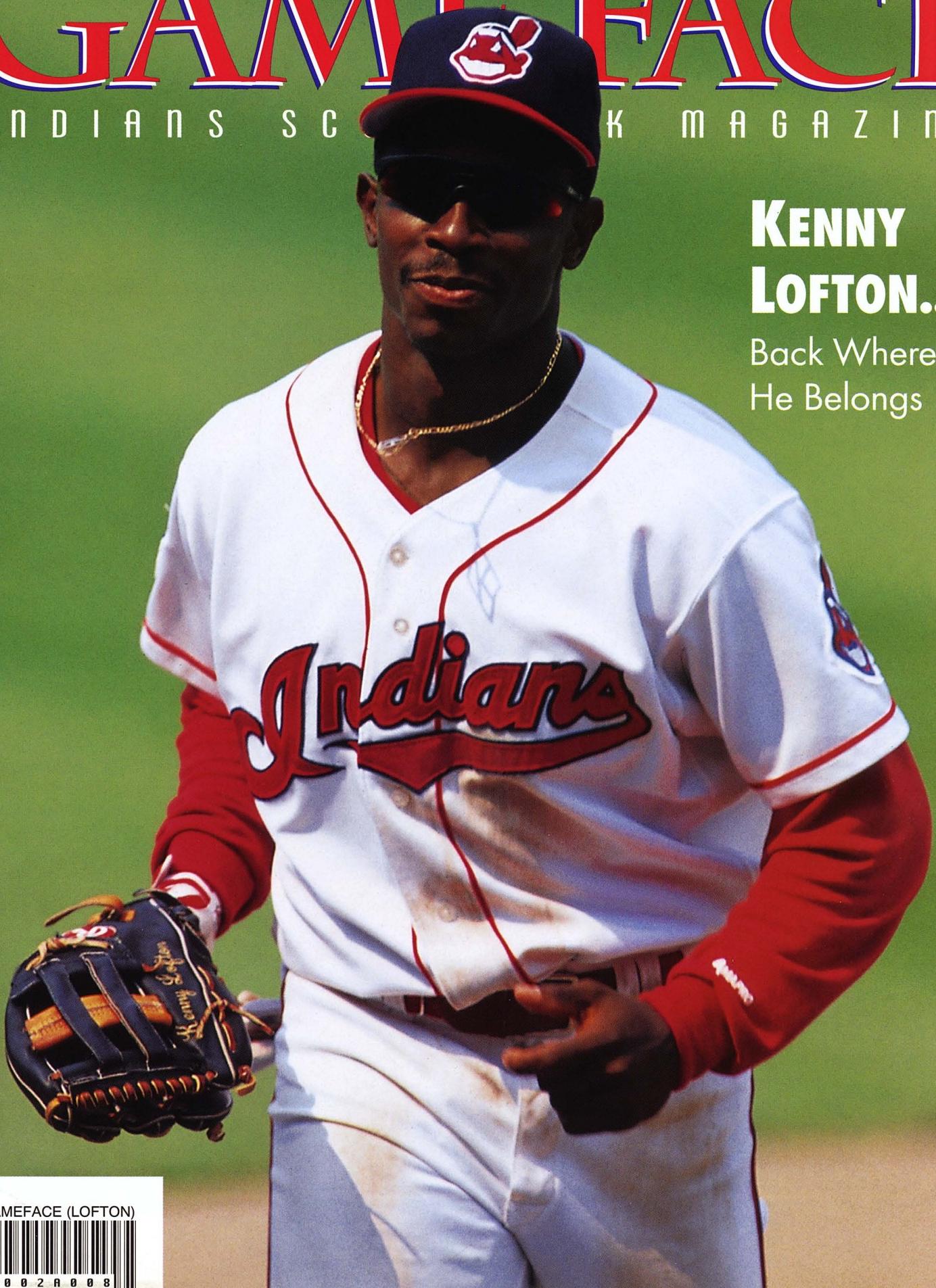


# GAMEFACE

INDIANS SC K MAGAZINE

KENNY  
LOFTON...

Back Where  
He Belongs



2.50

APR98 GAMEFACE (LOFTON)



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Photo: Gregory Drezdzon

**Special thanks** to everyone who assisted the Advertising and Publications staff of the Cleveland Indians in the development of this publication.

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Photo: Gregory Drezdzon

**Indians**

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There's only one person who's happier than the fans of Cleveland that No. 7 is back at the top of the Indians lineup card... and that's Kenny Lofton! Now we can all sit back and enjoy the excitement AND the best leadoff hitter of the 90s.

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Another constant for skipper Mike Hargrove is four-time All-Star third baseman Travis Fryman. The epitome of consistency, day after day, year after year, Fryman's numbers speak for themselves.

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### 88 Dwight Gooden by Steve Herrick

Still at the prime of his career, Doc is a great competitor and looks forward to being handed the ball every fifth day. Not only does he feel that being in Cleveland is like, "a breath of fresh air," but we'll look forward to breathing a little easier with Doc on the hill.

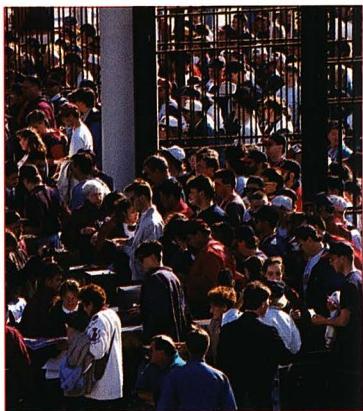
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## THE FANS

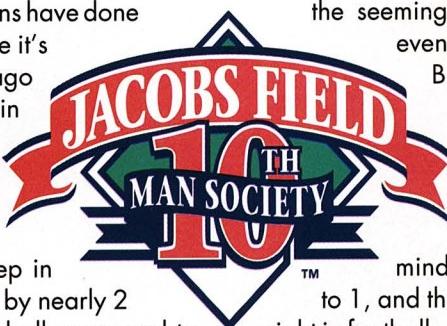
# THE JACOBS FIELD 10<sup>TH</sup> MAN SOCIETY



All photos: Gregory Drezdzon

You've probably heard this type of terminology many times before, whether it be the 6<sup>th</sup> man in basketball or the 12<sup>th</sup> man in football, etc. But nowhere is that extra intangible player known as the "home team crowd" more a part of the team that takes the field — more integral a part of an organization, than at Jacobs Field with the Cleveland Indians.

Once again Cleveland fans have done sold out the season before it's a row. While the Chicago franchises are ahead of fans have already en- Major League Baseball for another season. Keep in mind that fans at Jacobs Field outnumber a Bulls crowd by nearly 2 to 1, and there are 81 home games in a regular season in baseball compared to eight in football. With that in mind, it's easy to see that at this rate, it won't be long before the "body count" record-holder resides at the corner of E. 9th and Carnegie.



the seemingly impossible. They have even begun for the third year in Bulls hold the current record professional sports with and a couple of football the Tribe as well, Indians sured that the record in will remain in Cleveland

To pay special tribute to this phenomenal achievement, fans at Jacobs Field will note when next they arrive at the Ballpark, that two very large visuals have been added within the seating bowl in an effort to ensure that the fans in-park and at home watching on television, as well as local and visiting media, do not miss the message: "Jacobs Field is the home of baseball's best fans and professional sports' ultimate 'Extra Man.'"

The top of the home and visiting dugouts have been painted in giant letters to read, "Welcome to Jacobs Field. Home of Baseball's Best Fans." And above the left field home run porch there's displayed a gigantic sign depicting the new Jacobs Field 10<sup>th</sup> Man Society logo. Above the logo is a three digit number that will be changed during every home game to showcase the new record for consecutive sellouts in Major League Baseball. A fan will be selected each game to act as the honorary 10<sup>th</sup> Man with the special service of actually changing the number to reflect the new record total.

Kicking off the series of 10<sup>th</sup> Man tributes to take place this season, and in seasons to come, the Indians teamed up with their over-the-air television partner, WUAB Channel 43, to present one lucky fan with a '97 American League Championship Ring. The very same diamond ring the players were awarded. The honorary 10<sup>th</sup> Man received the ring along with the players in a pregame ceremony on Opening Day. Additional prizes were distributed to 100 other honorary 10<sup>th</sup> Men via the preseason promotion with the Tribe and WUAB.

Move over Michael Jordan. Who says players are the only ones with their own exclusive line of merchandise? You'll find plenty of hot new souvenirs and sportswear with the Jacobs Field 10<sup>th</sup> Man Society logo available at souvenir stands inside the Ballpark and at all seven area Indians Team Shops.

Indians fans are truly the most REAL fans in sports and together represent the player that every franchise craves. The one who's the most passionate... the one who's always there... the one that can most consistently affect the outcome of a game. Everything the Indians are today, they are because of the unprecedented support of their fans. As a group, the Indians 10<sup>th</sup> Man represents the one player above all others. *The one that makes all the difference.*





## WELCOME TO JACOBS FIELD

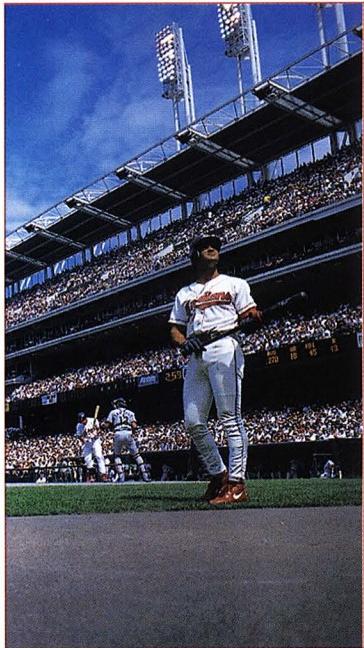


Photo: Gregory Drezdzon

*"It is our intention to make our home a safe, comfortable, family-oriented facility so every trip to Jacobs Field is most enjoyable."*

*"We believe these fan ground rules will ensure the intimate environment that we all seek."*

*— Dennis Lehman, Indians Executive Vice President of Business*

**Baseball's** most important pitch this season won't come from a mound. In an effort to combat drinking and driving, Major League Baseball, together with the Techniques for Effective Alcohol Management (TEAM) coalition, continues to make a comprehensive appeal to fans this year. The message: PLEASE DON'T DRINK AND DRIVE!

As part of the TEAM program, each Major League club reviews its alcohol policies and runs public service announcements asking fans to drink responsibly and warns them against the consequences of drinking and driving.

The Cleveland Indians want you safe, because we want you back. Please drink responsibly.

In an effort to make everyone's visit to the Ballpark as safe and enjoyable as possible, a list of guidelines has been developed.

The Indians ask that you follow these guidelines, or be subject to ejection from the Ballpark, and in some cases, subject to criminal prosecution by the Cleveland Police Department.

To ensure that each game is a pleasant experience for each and every guest, the Indians have established the following "Ground Rules:"

- Jacobs Field is a non-smoking facility with designated smoking areas. Non-smoking areas include: the entire seating bowl of the Ballpark (including the outdoor seating of Suites and Club Seats); KidsLand; and all public rest rooms. Smoking is permitted in the following areas: Back Yard; Patio area on the Main Concourse; all three concourse levels (Main, Mezzanine, and Upper Deck) on the East Ninth Street side of the Ballpark and Upper Deck pavilion area on the Carnegie side of the Ballpark (all of these locations are open-air areas with picnic tables, concession stands, and rest room facilities nearby); Bleacher Concourse on the Eagle

Avenue side of the Ballpark. In addition, the Terrace Club and Club Lounge have both smoking and non-smoking areas. Jacobs Field has signage identifying designated smoking areas for your convenience.

- Cans, glass bottles, plastic beverage containers, thermos bottles, and squeeze bottles are not permitted into Jacobs Field.
- Due to security concerns, hard-sided coolers and containers are not permitted. Soft-sided containers and coolers are permitted.
- Food items and juice boxes are permitted inside the Ballpark, provided they are not inside a hard-sided cooler or container.
- Pets are not allowed inside the Ballpark. However, guide dogs for persons with sight disabilities are permitted.
- The resale (scalping) of Indians tickets is strictly prohibited and subject to prosecution by the Cleveland Police Department.
- Fans are permitted to bring and display banners, provided they do not interfere with the game, obstruct the view of fans, or carry obscene, political or commercial messages. Banners may be hung from the facing of the Upper Deck. Poles and sticks are strictly prohibited.
- Fans may bring small umbrellas into Jacobs Field as long as they do not interfere with other fans' enjoyment of the game. Large golf umbrellas are discouraged.
- Cameras and video recorders are permitted. However, any resale of the photography or video is strictly prohibited. Team name, logos, and players' likenesses are all copyrighted material.
- Persons observed breaking the law (eg. using illegal drugs, or drinking alcohol underage) will be subject to immediate ejection and/or criminal prosecution.
- Persons using obscene or abusive language, or engaging in any other antisocial conduct offensive to those around them, will be asked by Indians personnel to cease this conduct. If the offensive conduct persists, those involved will be ejected from Jacobs Field.
- Persons entering the playing field, throwing or attempting to throw objects onto the field, will be subject to immediate ejection from Jacobs Field and/or criminal prosecution.

If you have any questions, comments, suggestions, or problems, please visit one the Guest Service Centers located at Section 116 of the Main Concourse and in Section 519 of the Upper Concourse, or see one of our hosts throughout the Ballpark. The Indians thank you for your cooperation.





## IN THE COMMUNITY

### FREE INDIANS TICKETS FOR STUDENTS

The Cleveland Indians have once again teamed up with McDonald & Company Investments to provide game tickets for students who excel in the classroom. Through the **High Achievers Program**, students in grades 4-10 in Cuyahoga County schools are eligible to receive free Indians tickets to designated games. Students are selected by their school principal to receive the tickets. In the previous nine years, nearly 300,000 tickets to Cleveland Indians games have been awarded to deserving students. The Indians and McDonald & Company are proud to support educational achievement in our area. For more information about High Achievers, please call the Community Relations Information Line at **(216) 420-4400**.



### CHARITABLE COMPLIMENTARY TICKET PROGRAM

Despite the sellouts to see championship baseball at Jacobs Field, the Indians are able to provide free game tickets to non-profit organizations. Through the **Charitable Complimentary Ticket Program**, presented by KeyBank, more than 4,000 tickets will be distributed this season to state-certified non-profits serving underprivileged youth, senior citizens and disabled fans. To see whether your organization is eligible for tickets through the Charitable Complimentary Ticket Program please call the Community Relations Information Line at **(216) 420-4400**.



### SOFTBALL CLINICS AT JACOBS FIELD

This year the Indians are expanding their youth baseball programs to include **Girls Softball Clinics**. In conjunction with the Girls Scouts of Lake Erie Council, the Indians will host a beginners fast-pitch clinic and an intermediate/advanced clinic at Jacobs Field. The head clinician will be Cleveland State University Women's Head Softball Coach Julie Jones. Participants will practice fielding, hitting, pitching, base running and also participate in a fit and healthy lifestyles session. In addition, the Tribe will treat the girls to an Indians game later in the week. To sign up for these inaugural softball clinics, please call the Girlsports Division of the Girl Scouts of Lake Erie Council at **(216) 481-1313**.

Credit: Tony Gray



### GET A PIECE OF THE PARK

Various streetpole banners from the 1995, 1996, and 1997 seasons are available for purchase from Cleveland Indians Charities. These streetpole banners are the very same ones which have decorated the streets surrounding Jacobs Field over the past championship seasons. For information on purchasing these banners, please call **(216) 420-4400**.

Credit: Gregory Drezdzon





CHAD OGEA

## A SEASON TO REMEMBER

By Steve Herrick

Wherever **Chad Ogea** went in the off-season, people wanted to talk to him.

They didn't want to talk about how he missed almost three months of last season with injuries. They didn't want to talk about how well he pitched against Baltimore in two starts in the American League Championship Series. They didn't want to talk about his two wins over Florida in the World Series.

### **So what did these inquiring minds want to know?**

"They wanted to talk about my hitting," he said with a laugh.

Yes, hitting. You know that thing when a player digs in the batter's box, takes a big rip and hopes the ball lands in safely. Such a task is foreign to American League pitchers, but Ogea looked like he'd been doing it for years in Game 6 of the World Series. His two-run double off Marlins ace Kevin Brown, along with a little bit of pitching, helped the Indians to a 4-1 win. Ogea was 2-for-3 with two runs scored and held the Marlins to a run in 5 1/3 innings.

Not a bad day's work. And in this case, even the pitcher wanted to talk about his hitting. "When I look back at that game, I still can't believe that was me out there hitting a double off Kevin Brown," Ogea said. "It felt good."

Because of the designated hitter, American League pitchers only hit during the exhibition season, interleague play, and the World Series. Ogea didn't even pick up a bat during his college days at Louisiana State. He had to jog his memory to recall his last hit prior to the Series.

"I think that the last time I got a hit was in high school," Ogea said. "It's been a long time. I can't really remember that far back. It probably was my senior year at St. Louis High School in Lake Charles, LA."

But Ogea is a realist. **He knows what got him to the big leagues and what will keep him there. So the bat got put away in the off-season.**

"The only thing I swung this winter was my fishing pole," he said. "I think I better worry about getting people out instead of hitting."

Tribe fans know there's a lot more to Ogea than bats and fishing poles. When it mattered most during the Indians dramatic run to the World Series last fall, he was their best pitcher. In a spectacular Post Season, the righthander went 2-2 with a 2.32 ERA in five appearances (four starts). He saved his best for baseball's biggest stage,

Despite the pressure of a big game, Ogea didn't change his philosophy.

"It's not going to change my approach," Ogea said. "**I try to approach every game the same. I try to come prepared and have a plan when I walk out there. When you are aggressive, you put the ball in the strike zone a lot. You try not to make mistakes in the strike zone, but it happens. The biggest thing for me was that I was able to focus on what I was doing from pitch to pitch instead of what was going on around me.**"

Ogea's success didn't surprise Indians pitching coach Mark Wiley.

"I never doubted what Chad could do," he said. "When Chad's healthy he has some of the best composure of any pitcher I've ever worked with. He knows how to pitch."

**Success is nothing new to Ogea.**

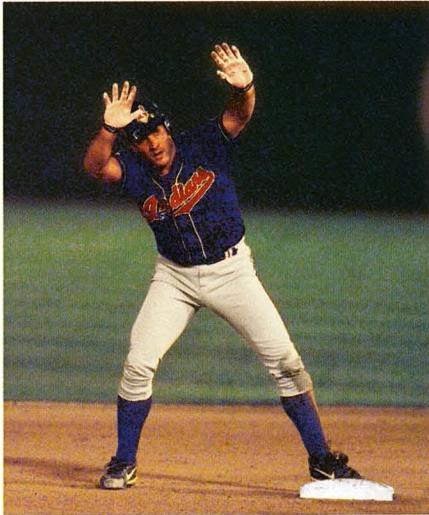
*It began back at LSU, where he led the Tigers to the national championship and started the title game of the College World Series in 1991.*

Success is nothing new to Ogea. It began back at LSU, where he led the Tigers to the national championship and started the title game of the College World Series in 1991. Ogea was the Indians #3 pick in that year's draft. He has a 42-25 Minor League record and is 26-19 with the Indians.

**"If you look at Chad's record, he's been a winner,"** said Indians Manager Mike Hargrove. "He's done nothing but win everywhere he's been."

Ogea, 27, relies on his fastball and an assortment of off-speed pitches.

"Chad throws surprisingly harder than people think," said Hargrove. "He shouldn't have to throw a lot of pitches to get a guy out. He likes to attack the hitters. He's got short-arm action so he hides the ball well, but the key for Chad is locating his pitches."



Bob Rosato/MLB Photos

Photo: Gregory Drezdzon

"When he's healthy he doesn't have to think much about his mechanics," said Wiley.

**"When he's in a flow, his stuff is at a high level."** The Indians look forward to him being back in that flow soon.

Ogea's performance in September and October affected more than last season. Had Ogea not done the job then, he might not have been protected in the expansion draft. So instead of being in the rotation on a team shooting for its fourth straight American League Central Division title, he might have been a member of Arizona or Tampa Bay.

One of Ogea's career highlights came in 1996 when he held Seattle to an infield hit in eight innings in a 2-1 win. His first Major League complete game also came that season, a four-hitter against Milwaukee in a 7-0 win.



Hargrove doesn't have to be mindful about who's hot and who's not among the lead-off candidates on that day. He doesn't have to worry about injuries — in his five previous years with the Indians, Lofton played in 680 of the Indians' 739 games (92 percent).

Hargrove doesn't have to worry about any of that.

**His leadoff hitter is back.**

His leadoff hitter is Kenny Lofton.

**Period.**

"The thing we missed most about not having Kenny here last year was him getting on base and creating scoring opportunities for the guys behind him," Hargrove said.

That, of course, is the number one responsibility of a good leadoff hitter. And Lofton, right here, right now, is the best. He has been selected to the All-Star team in each of the last four seasons. His .316 career average ranks fifth among active players. His .316 average as an Indians player ranks ninth on the Tribe's all-time list. And his .333 average last year for Atlanta, in what was supposed to be an "off" year for him, was the highest by a Braves player in 23 years.

He's done all that while hitting in the leadoff spot.

And don't underestimate the importance of that.

**"A quality leadoff hitter is as hard to find as a quality No. 4 hitter,"** Hargrove said. "Those are the two hardest spots in the batting order for clubs to fill."

Lofton, the best leadoff hitter in the 1990s, succeeding Rickey Henderson, the best in the game in the '80s in that difficult role, has a theory on why it's so hard to find quality leadoff hitters.

"The reason there aren't more good leadoff hitters is because everyone wants to put

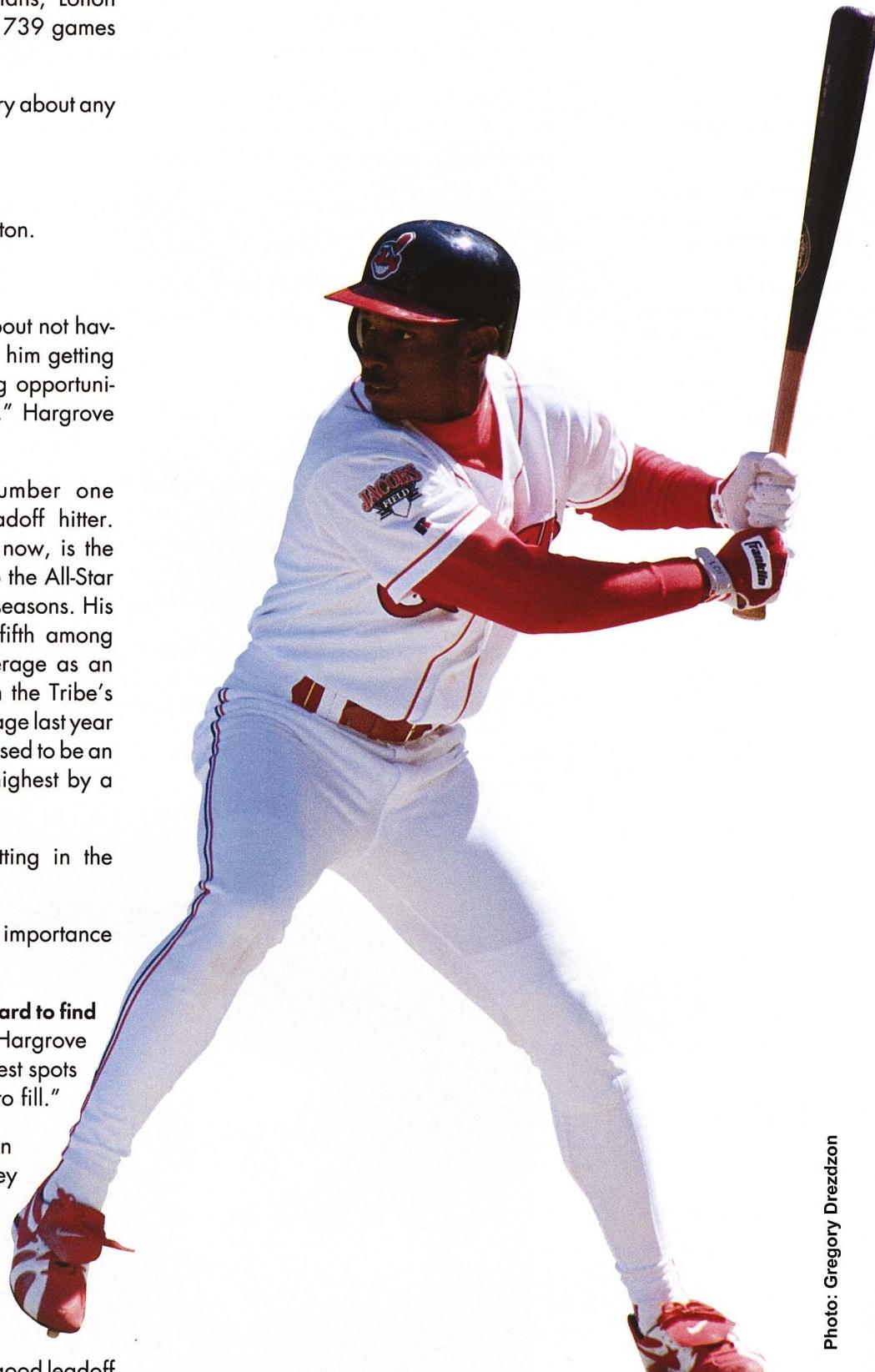


Photo: Gregory Drezdzon



More distressing still was the National League-high 20 times Lofton was thrown out trying to steal.

"The combination of being in a new league, on a new team, facing new pitchers, plus his injury all led to Kenny getting thrown out 20 times," Hart said.

Lofton said he was also hampered by philosophical differences on how best to execute a running game.

"I didn't have the green light as much, so it was hard to run as much as I did here," he said. "Over there they don't want you to run when it (the count) is 2-2, but they do want you to run when it's 3-2. I never understood that."

Lofton also thought critics focused too much on one area of his game and failed to recognize some others.

"Everyone said I didn't steal a lot of bases, so that meant I didn't have a good season," he said. "But that's only part of my game. They didn't look at the other numbers."

Indeed, outside of stolen bases, Lofton's 1997 numbers were otherwise very comparable to the standard he set for himself in his first five years with the Indians.

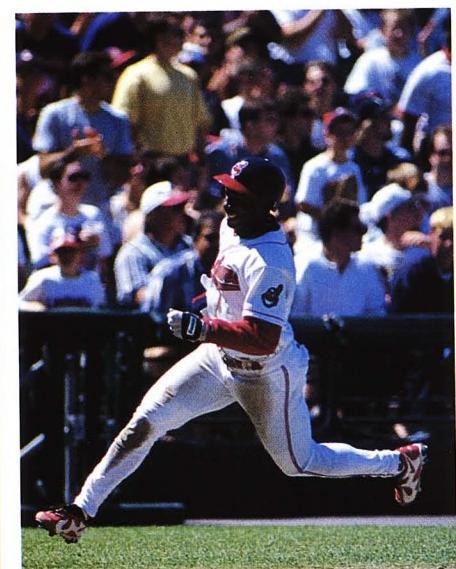
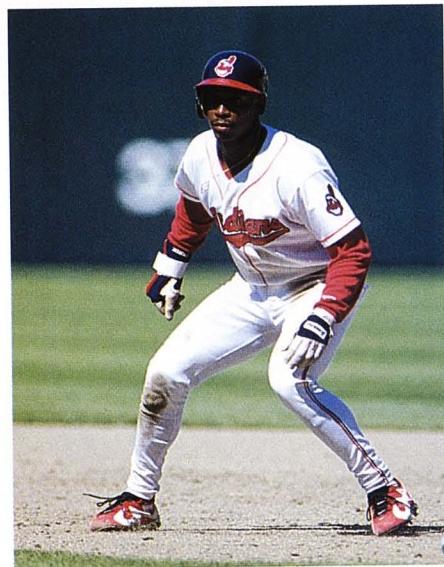
His .333 average was the second highest of his career, and ranked fourth in the National League. He had a 15-game hitting streak. He had three five-hit games, falling one short of the Major League record for most five-hit games in a season. His 64 walks were his most in four years, and he hit .351 with runners in scoring position.

**Many players can only dream about Lofton's 1997 numbers.** For him, it was considered an off-year.

And when the Braves made it clear he wasn't in their plans for 1998, Lofton entered the free-agent market as one of the top position players available.

In one of the more unexpected courtships of the off-season, the Milwaukee Brewers, of all teams, emerged as the front runner to

**Outside of stolen bases, Lofton's 1997 numbers were otherwise very comparable to the standard he set for himself in his first five years with the Indians.**



Both photos: Gregory Drezdzon





sign Lofton. But when Lofton began to express a desire to return to Cleveland, the wheels started turning that eventually led to Lofton's stunning return to the Indians. It's the first time in the free-agent era that a high profile free agent was traded before he became a free agent, then resigned with the team that traded him later that same year.

Lofton agreed to a three-year, \$24 million deal, which was two years and about \$17 million less than the Brewers offered him, but Lofton called himself on that one, saying he was putting personal preference above the dollar sign.

"Milwaukee made a very impressive offer," said Steve Zucker, Lofton's agent. "It was for more guaranteed money and more years, and they probably would have gone higher. But once we began talking to the Indians, Kenny told me, '**Do whatever you have to do to get it done.**'"

That meant telling the Brewers "no thanks."

"Money was not the overriding concern here," said Zucker. "And believe me, as an agent, it's hard for me to say that. That's very rare in this business. But emotion came into play. **I knew how Kenny felt about Cleveland and that he wanted to come back here in the worst way.**" But leaving \$17 million (the difference between the Brewers' and the Indians' offers) on the table?

"That was kind of tough," Lofton admitted. "But I looked at it like I was going to go where I was going to be happy. A lot of times you think the grass is greener on the other side, but sometimes you get there, and it's not."

Lofton found that out in Atlanta.

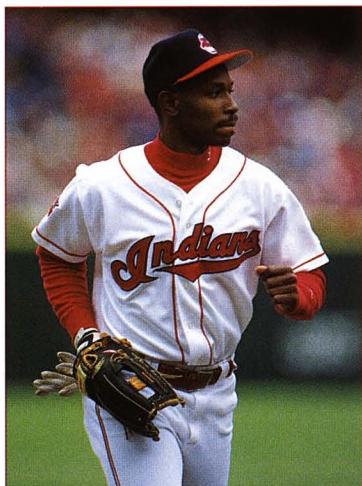


Photo: Gregory Drezdzon

Lofton Con't — PG. 58

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- Your name in lights on the Matrix Scoreboard!

See store for details.

**Indian Love Song**

Go ahead and wear your heart on your sleeve. Show your love for the team in officially-licensed Cleveland Indians merchandise, featuring Genuine Casualwear from Lee Sport™. For true fans everywhere. At Kohl's.

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*That's more like it.*

"I can be myself here (in Cleveland)," said Lofton, who according to reports never really fit in with the Braves. "I stayed to myself in Atlanta. Maybe that was a problem for them."

Zucker said there was no doubt in his mind that his client made the right decision when he and Lofton arrived at Jacobs Field for the December 8 press conference announcing he had signed with the Indians.



Photo: Gregory Drezdzon

"You should have seen Kenny just walking into the building. He was glowing," said Zucker.

The wheels started turning for Lofton's return to Cleveland in November, at the general managers' meetings in Phoenix. It was there that Hart first raised the possibility of Lofton returning to Cleveland.

"One of our priorities this off-season was to find a leadoff man, and Kenny is the best leadoff hitter in the game," Hart said. "We thought it would be tricky trying to create a way to bring him back, but we started talking to Steve in Arizona and asked him to keep us in mind."

Zucker said when he told Lofton that the Indians were interested, Lofton started pressing for his agent to close a deal.

**Lofton Con't — PG. 97**

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**Lofton Con't from PG. 58**

"My family played a big part in my decision," Lofton said. "When I told them I was talking to the Indians they all said, 'Sign! Sign!' "

Lofton said the warm reception he got at Jacobs Field during the All-Star game last year was also a factor in his decision to take less money to return to Cleveland.

**"At the All-Star game when the fans let me know how much they appreciated me, that really hit me in the heart. That was very touching," Lofton said.**

In order to clear room on the payroll and in center field for Lofton's return, Hart traded Grissom and Jeff Juden to Milwaukee for pitchers Ben McDonald, Ron Villone, and Mike Fettters. Fettters was subsequently traded to Oakland for Steve Karsay, and McDonald underwent season-ending shoulder surgery during Spring Training.

But Hart still considers the deal a success, because it was the only way the Indians could bring back Lofton.

**"Getting Kenny was a huge piece of the puzzle for us this off-season," Hart said.** "We never would have considered trading Marquis if we didn't have a chance to get the premier leadoff hitter in baseball, which is what Kenny is."

And Lofton said he couldn't be happier about being back with the Indians, and back in the American League.

"This league is more suited to my style," he said. "Over there (in the National League), it's a pitchers league, and in Atlanta they are more concerned about pitching. Everyone else is secondary. It was tough for me to deal with that. When we won it was because of the pitchers. When we lost it was the offense's fault. It's nice to be in a league I'm familiar with. I'm very comfortable here."

It was ironic that Juden was one of the players that was traded in the deal that paved the way for Lofton's return.

Last year Juden wore Lofton's No. 7.

"It's funny," said Indians clubhouse manager Ted Walsh. "I never took Kenny's name off his uniform. The uniform orders came in right after we made the trade, so I just put Kenny's uniform in a box after he got traded."

On December 8, when Lofton returned to the Indians, Walsh pulled out that box, and handed Lofton his old No. 7, with his name on the back.

Lofton put it on in front of the cameras at the press conference.

**It still fit.**

**Perfectly.** ▼

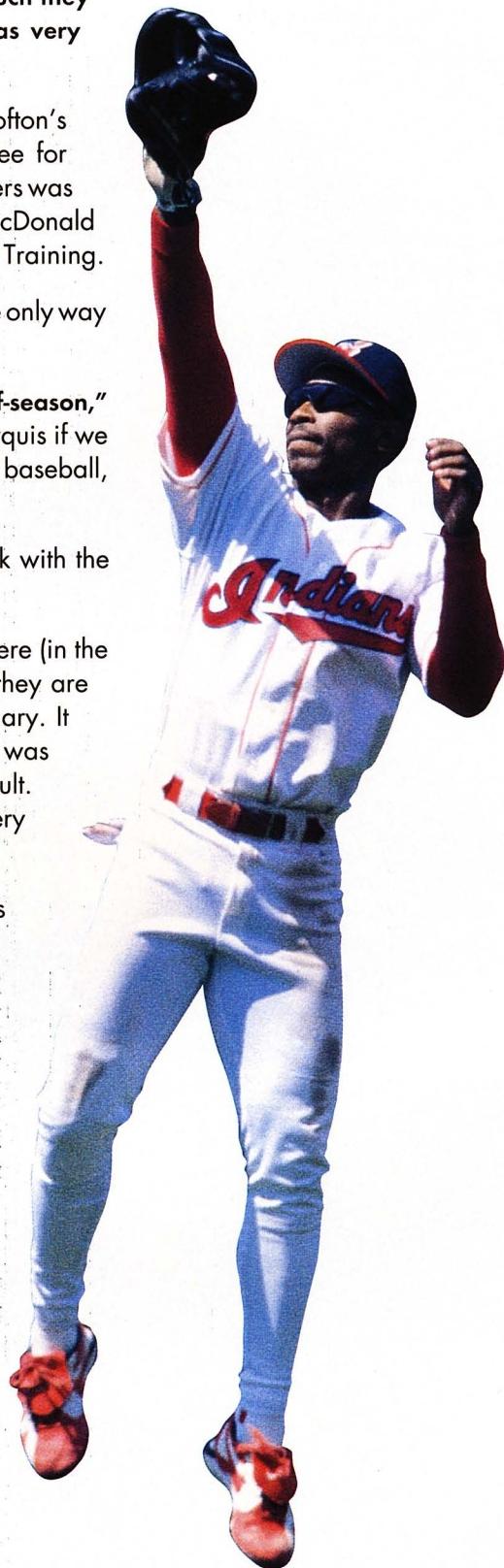


Photo: Gregory Drezdzon





## HOW TO SCORE

**Baseball fans** can enjoy the sport to the fullest extent by keeping track of the game and pinpointing those big plays that bring victory or defeat. All you need is a basic knowledge of the rules.

Although there are countless scoring methods, experts use a simple code based on numbering players by position and tracing action through the use of symbols. It's easy and fun.

In fact, why not devise your own scoring system with the basic suggestions on this page.

One such suggestion on player substitutions is to use a heavy or wavy line under or over a box to indicate a change, either of a player or batter.

If a batter flies to the rightfielder, merely use the figure 9. If it is a foul fly, use 9F.

Now that you are an official "scorer," you can really enjoy baseball games.

TEAM	Pos.	1	2
Rightfielder	9	4-6 W	
2nd Baseman	4	3 ④FO	
1st Baseman	3	=	
Centerfielder	8	SF 8	
Designated Hitter	DH	K	
Leftfielder	7		4-6
Catcher	2		DP 4-6-3
3rd Baseman	5		≡
Shortstop	6		7
Pitcher	1		
TOTALS	R H	1 1	1 2

Walked and was forced out at second (2nd baseman to shortstop).

Reached first on fielder's choice when runner was forced out, advanced to third on a double by 3rd place hitter, scored on 4th place hitter's sacrifice fly.

Doubled; did not advance further.

Flied out to center field scoring runner on third.

Struck out — end of the inning.

Singled: later forced out at second (2nd baseman to shortstop in first half of double play).

Hit into double play (2nd baseman to shortstop to 1st baseman).

Hit home run.

Flied out to leftfielder — end of inning.

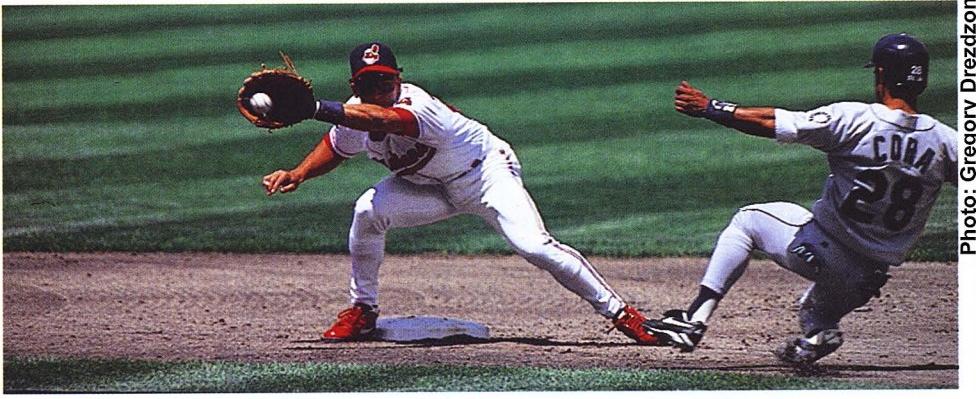


Photo: Gregory Drezdzon

### Can You Score This Play ?

The ball was hit to the shortstop, who threw it to the second baseman. The second baseman was able to force out the runner who had been at first. He then threw the ball to the first baseman to get the batter out, turning a double play.

### In this example...

The hitter reached first base on a walk, stole second, advanced to third on a pitcher's balk, and scored on a wild pitch.

BK	SB
WP	W

### Use these SYMBOLS for Plays

Single	—
Double	==
Triple	====
Home Run	≡≡
Error	E
Foul Fly	F
Double Play	DP
Fielder's Choice	FC
Hit by Pitcher	HP
Wild Pitch	WP
Stolen Base	SB
Sacrifice Hit	SH
Sacrifice Fly	SF
Caught Stealing	CS
Passed Ball	PB
Balk	BK
Struck Out	K
Base on Balls	BB
Forced Out	FO
Intentional Walk	IW



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# THE PLAYERS



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*June*

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*September*  
*December*

*July*

*August*

# **SLIDER**

## **Slippin' n Slidin' around TOWN**



Photo: Gregory Drezdzon

*Year-Round*



WALK THIS WAY!

BOTTOM OF THE NINTH



Photo: Gregory Drezdzon